

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 04002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR IR GW

SUBJ: SCHEEL PAYS FRUITFUL VISIT TO IRAN

1. SUMMARY: RECENT VISIT OF PRESIDENT SCHEEL TO IRAN EXEMPLIFIED CLOSE TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. ESSENTIALLY A GOOD WILL GESTURE, THE VISIT DID NOT PRODUCE ANY NEW INITIATIVES BUT WAS, IN GOI VIEW, CONFIRMATION OF EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT AND MRS SCHEEL PAID FOUR DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN APRIL 21-24. DURING VISIT SCHEEL, IN HIS WORDS, HAD QUOTE VERY FRUITFUL TALKS UNQUOTE WITH THE SHAH AND MET WITH A WIDE RANGE OF GOI LEADERSHIP. THE SCHEELS SPENT ONE DAY IN SOUTHERN IRAN TOURING THE CULTURAL CENTERS OF SHIRAZ AND PERSEPOLIS.

3. EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY WAS GIVEN VISIT AND VARIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS. SHAH'S TOAST AT NIAVARAN PALACE BANQUET INCLUDED REFERENCE TO QUOTE THE DECISIVE AND COURAGEOUS POLICY OF THE FRG IN FIGHTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM END QUOTE, A
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CHALLENGE OF HIGH PRIORITY IN BOTH COUNTRIES. IN HIS RESPONSE SCHEEL REFERRED TO IRAN'S QUOTE NOTABLE SUCCESSES IN FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HAS HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ABATING WORLD DISPUTES. IRAN, IN THIS REGION WHICH HAS A GREAT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE MAINTENANCE OF WORLD PEACE, IS A CONSTANT ELEMENT OF SECURITY AND STABILITY. UNQUOTE.

4. AS INDICATION OF CLOSE TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, NATIONAL IRANIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE FROM SCHEEL WHICH COINCIDED WITH HIS ARRIVAL. IN ADDITION, TEHRAN JOURNAL RAN A LONG INTERVIEW WHICH SCHEEL GRANTED FARIBORZ ATAPOUR PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM GERMANY. (TEXT BEING POUCHED BONN). FRG AMBASSADOR RITZEL MET LOCAL PRESS BEFORE VISIT AND HIS REMARKS WERE GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE IN PRESS. IN REFERENCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS RITZEL SAID: QUOTE THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES ABOUT OUR APPROACHES TO DEMOCRACY, BUT THIS WOULD NOT PROMPT CONCERN. CONDITIONS IN IRAN AND WEST GERMANY ARE DIFFERENT BUT WILL BEVER DISTURB GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS UNQUOTE. AS NOTED REFTE, SHAH REVEALED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE DID NOT ARISE IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS.

5. MFA PRESS RELEASE REFERRED TO REVIEW OF QUOTE PURCHASE OF CERTAIN MILITARY NEEDS AND THE TRAINING OF RELATED PERSONNEL UNQUOTE. SCHEEL TOLD REPORTERS THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN TRAIN FOR IRANIAN PURCHASE OF GERMAN FRIGATES IN ADDITION TO THE SIX-SUBMARINE SALE. FRG NAVY DELEGATION HEADED BY RADM GEFTERS, CHIEF MARINE SUPPORT AND TRAINING, INCLUDING SHIPYARD REPS, MET WITH VICE MINISTER OF WAR (GENERAL TOUFANIAN), COMMANDER, IMPERIAL IRANIAN NAVY (CCIN) AND NAVY PLANS CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECTORATE TO DISCUSS SYSTEMS COMPATIBILITY WITH DD 993 (IRANIAN SPRUANCECLASS DESTROYER) AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF POTENTIAL GOI FRIGATE PURCHASE FOR WHICH FRG TYPE 122 CLASS FRIGATE IS A CANDIDATE. DIVISION OF PURCHASE BETWEEN DUTCH KORTENAER CLASS FRIGATE AND FRG IS STILL NOT DECIDED. GOI APPARENTLY PLANS TO KEEP OPTIONS OPEN PENDING DECISION TO RELEASE US WEAPONS SUITES DESIRED BY GOI (TEHRAN 03199) FOR INSTALLATION IN FRIGATES.

6. FRG EMBASSY HERE EMPHASIZED THAT SCHEEL VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY PROTOCOLARY AND GOODWILL VISIT. MESSAGE WHICH SCHEEL AND PARTY LEFT WITH SHAH AND GOI OFFICIALS WAS THAT FRG BELIEVES IRAN IS IMPORTANT TO GERMANY. WHILE NO FINAL DECISIONS WERE MADE ON ANY NEW BUSINESS IN THE ECONOMIC ARENA, FRG MINISTRY OF ECONOMY OFFICIALS DID MEET WITH GOI MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFARIS AND FINANCE OFFICERS FOR ONE-HOUR ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION. FRG OFFICIALS DURING THIS MEETING EXPRESSED IN VERY GENERAL TERMS FRG'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ANY GOI PROPOSALS IN FIELDS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND NUCLEAR POWER, BUT NO NEW GROUND WAS BROKEN.

7. WIDESPREAD IMPRESSION HERE THAT VISIT WAS SUCCESS. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE, WITH FINANCIAL DAILY BOURSE COMMENTING THAT VISIT WILL CERTAINLY STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL COMMENTED EDITORIALY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN WEST GERMANY AND IRAN QUOTE PROVIDE A TEXTBOOK MODEL FOR THE BUILDING UP OF CLOSE BILATERAL TIES. UNQUOTE. THE SHAH HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE AN INVITATION TO VISIT FRG. (FYI: LAST VISIT OF SHAH AND EMPRESS WAS 1968)

8. COMMENT: SCHEEL VISIT CAME UPON HEELS OF GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER'S MID-APRIL MISSION OF CONTRITION
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TO PATCH UP BILATERAL RELATIONS STRAINED BY STUDENT BREAK-IN AT GOI BERLIN EMBASSY. GDR AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFF CANDIDLY TOLD US THEY BELIEVE FRG VISIT WENT QUOTE VERY WELL UNQUOTE, REMARKING THAT SCHEEL MAKES AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION ON THESE OCCASIONS. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ECHOED UPBEAT REACTION, TELLING EMBOFF THAT VISIT DID NOT PRODUCE ANY NEW INITIATIVES BUT WAS A QUOTE CONFIRMATION OF EXISTING GOOD RELATIONS UNQUOTE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.
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